

## Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

/063 W

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R 110515Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9993

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 17851

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR IN KS KN

SUBJECT: DEPUTY FONMIN VISIT TO PYONGYANG OFF, AND OTHER  
DPRK DIFFICULTIES

REF: A) DELHI 17253, B) SEOUL 9682

1. ACCORDING TO ROK EMBASSY, BIPINPAL DAS, DEPUTY  
MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, WILL NOW NOT VISIT  
PYONGYANG NEXT WEEK (REF A). ROK POLCOUNSELLOR  
TOLD EMBOFF DEC 10 THAT AS OF MID-WEEK MEA  
HAD NOT RECEIVED RECONFIRMATION OF VISIT FROM DPRK.  
EVEN WERE DPRK TO RESPOND NOW, MEA OFFICIALS BELIEVE,  
IT WOULD BE TOO LATE TO COMPLETE ARRANGEMENTS.  
DAS THEREFORE WILL GO FROM DELHI TO SEOUL VIA TOKYO  
TO ARRIVE ON SCHEDULE DECEMBER 18. HE MAY EXTEND  
HIS ORIGINAL DEPARTURE DATE ONE DAY TO DECEMBER 23  
FOR SIGHSEEING. POLCOUNSELLOR SAID THAT ALTHOUGH  
HE EXPECTS DAS TO HAVE HIGH-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS IN  
SEOUL, THE ROK HAS NOTHING SPECIAL TO TAKE UP WITH  
HIM. IN AN ASIDE, DAS SAID THAT THE DEPUTY MINISTER  
WAS NOT A KEY FIGURE IN GOI DECISION-MAKING (AN  
ASSESSMENT WE SHARE FULLY).

2. REGARDING THE ALLEGED EXPULSION OF DPRK PERSONNEL  
FROM MOSCOW REPORTED IN THE DELHI "ECONOMIC TIMES"  
(REF B), POLCOUNSELLOR SAID "ECONOMIC TIMES" WAS  
ONLY PAPER "IN THE WORLD" TO CARRY REPORT. ROK  
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EMBASSY HAS QUIRIED THE NEWSPAPER WHICH REPORTEDLY

SAID STORY CAME FROM ITS SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN MOSCOW. ROK EMBASSY IS ASKING NEWSPAPER TO OBTAIN MORE DETAILS BUT DOES NOT KNOW IF "ECONOMIC TIMES" WILL FOLLOW UP. (EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE PAPER HAS MOSCOW CORRESPONDENT BUT MAY HAVE SOME "STRINGER" RELATIONSHIP.)

3. AS FOR STATUS OF DPRK EMBASSY HERE, POLCOUNSELLOR TOLD EMBOFF WITH SOME SATISFACTION THAT MEA HERE HAS SENT NOTE TO NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY ASKING IT TO PAY FOUR-MONTHS BACK-RENT ON ITS CHANCERY, THE PAYMENT BEING IN ARREARS SINCE JULY. THE GOI IS THE LANDLORD. ROK EMBASSY SOMETIMES LEARNS THESE THINGS, COOUNSELLOR SAID, BECAUSE IT GETS DPRK CORRESPONDENCE BY MISTAKE. COUNSELOR ALSO THINKS THAT AT PRESENT NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY STAFF IS NO MORE THAN SEVEN PEOPLE AND THAT FLEET OF MERCEDES IS NOW DOWN TO THREE.  
SCHNEIDER

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## Message Attributes

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